

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AGR-20 COME-00 GSA-02 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01 /077 W
----- 039406

R 240455Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9278

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 3327

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJ: SINGAPORE MALAYSIA RUBBER MARKET SPLIT

REF: A. SINGAPORE 3254; B. KUALA LUMPUR 3691

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, RAS (RUBBER ASSOCIATION OF SINGAPORE) OFFICIAL EXPRESSED GUARDED OPTIMISM THAT SINGAPORE/ MALAYSIA RUBBER MARKET WILL NOT BE COMPLETELY SPLIT. HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE STILL SEVERAL JOINT COMMITTEES OPERATING AND STEPS TAKEN SO FAR BY GOM ARE NOT IRREVERSIBLE. HE STATED THAT WHEREAS MALAYSIAN FINANCE MINISTER ANNOUNCED SPLIT, RUBBER IS IN PORTFOLIO OF MINISTER OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES. IF MARKET IS SPLIT MANY SMALL HOLDERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN SOUTHERN MALAYSIA, WILL SUFFER SERIOUS ECONOMIC LOSS DUE TO MARKET DISRUPTION.

2. RAS OFFICIAL WENT ON TO SAY GOS IS TELLING RUBBER ASSOCIATION HANDLE WHAT IS A POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC MATTER.

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH TAN ENG JOO, CHAIRMAN OF RAS, IS HIGHLY RESPECTED IN SINGAPORE, POST FEELS THAT GOS DOESN'T WISH TO MAKE SPLIT AN ISSUE BETWEEN TWO

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GOVERNMENTS AND SECONDLY THAT GOS IS BECOMING LESS

CONCERNED OVER ENTREPOT TRADE. END COMMENT. TAN WILL
RETURN TO SINGAPORE BY AUGUST 27 FOR RAS ANNUAL MEETING EVEN
IF TALKS IN KUALA LUMPUR STILL CONTINUING.

3. COMMENT: RAS OFFICIALS AND LOCAL RUBBER TRADERS STILL
HOLD DEEP-SEATED FEELING THAT MALAYSIA CANNOT MARKET THEIR
ENTIRE OUTPUT OF RUBBER WITHOUT SINGAPORE'S ASSISTANCE.
HOWEVER, THERE IS INCREASING UNEASINESS THAT GOM WILL TRY TO
CONTROL RUBBER MARKET DESPITE WHAT RAS FEELS ARE ECONOMIC
REALITIES OF SITUATION.
CRONK

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